

RECLAMATION SPECIALIST

DEFINITION: Under general supervision, performs work of moderate difficulty with responsibility to review and inspect reclamation projects for compliance with federal and Navajo Nation environmental protection laws; coordinates implementation of reclamation and mining policies and procedures; performs related work as assigned.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS: This list is ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY and is not a comprehensive listing of all functions and tasks performed by incumbents of this class.

TASKS:

Initiates and coordinates projects related to the Navajo Environmental Protection Act (NEPA); prepares technical documents required for compliance with environmental laws; initiates request for consultation of archaeological and biological surveys; reviews documents and recommends alternatives to NEPA surveys; assesses, evaluates, and incorporates conditions of compliance into environmental assessment reports; prepares Clean Water Act permits for review.

Coordinates and obtains documents from land users, chapters and Navajo Nation departments and incorporates into environmental assessment reports; conducts field assessments in and around abandoned mine land sites with federally recognized priority ratings; makes recommendations for reclamation, sealing of abandoned mine shafts and stabilization of grounds; performs site inventory for new abandoned mine lands sites and maintains database.

Performs site evaluations; identifies site features and possible remediation methods; conducts preliminary evaluation of radiological hazards; conducts research of abandoned mine lands history for eligibility, mining leases, permits, operators, mining history, etc. and conducts detailed assessment of problem area geomorphology, geology, vegetation, hydrology, radiological distributions; establishes project areas based on priority of sites and program goals and objectives.

Reviews surface mining application plans and permits; evaluates and identifies potential on modifications and revisions; coordinates projects with BIA and federal surface mining officials; provides training and technical assistance to department in computer administration; trains employees in use of engineering software and programs; prepares monthly project status reports; conducts construction site visits and signs off on project management; coordinates all related professions for project consultation.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS:

Knowledge of professional level mining engineering and reclamation of abandoned strip mines.
Knowledge of Environmental Protection Act laws and other applicable relevant federal and state regulations.
Knowledge of occupational safety and health laws, rules and regulations.
Knowledge of computer hardware, software and peripherals.
Knowledge of health physics methods and practices.
Knowledge of research, analysis and technical writing methods and practices.
Skill in utilizing computer programs for the development of GIS, GPS, AutoCAD, SurvCAD.
Skill in verbal and written communication.
Skills in the development and presentation of reports.
Skill in enforcing contract compliance with all EPA, OSHA and MSHA regulations.
Skill in developing, designing and implementing reclamation projects.
Skill in establishing and maintaining effective working relationships.

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PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT: Work requires excellent negotiation and public relations skills with potential of exposure to dangerous levels of radiation, unstable ground, mine gases and wildlife that inhabit abandoned mining areas.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A Bachelor's degree in Science, Engineering, Environmental Science, Range Management, Biology, Geology, Hydrology or a closely related field; and three (3) years of progressively responsible surface mining reclamation experience.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- A Master's degree in Science, Engineering, Environmental Science, Range Management, Biology, Geology, Hydrology or a closely related field.
- Two (2) years of surface coal mining experience.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Possess a valid state driver's license.

Supplemental Requirements:

Incumbent must obtain a Navajo Nation Vehicle Operator's Permit within 90 days of date of hire.

Depending upon the needs of the Nation, some incumbents of the class may be required to demonstrate fluency in both the Navajo and English languages as a condition of employment.